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The register which is now generally used is that known as the indestructible index, secured by a constriction of the tube near the bulb, so narrow as to prevent the passage of an unbroken column of mercury through it. The expansion of the fluid causes it to pass the constriction, but a greater force than that of gravity or of the cohesive power of mercury is required to draw the column back into the reservoir. The index must be shaken down.

MEDICAL REMINISCENCES

DEAR EDITOR: In a recent JOURNAL someone asked for the history of the clinical thermometer. One answer has already been printed, giving the history of the invention of the ordinary barometric thermometer; to which I would like to add the following:

Shortly before his death and twenty years after he had given up practice, I had the pleasure of nursing in the family of Dr. James R. Chadwick of Boston. Dr. Chadwick had been the associate and friend of James Jackson, Oliver Wendell Holmes, Marion Sims, Fordyce Barker and the other great men, now dead, who did so much for medical history in this country, and never tired of telling me stories about them. He told me that James Jackson, the father-in-law of Oliver Wendell Holmes, first introduced in this country the cold-bath treatment for fever patients; the first patient he so treated was a sailor sick on board ship with typhoid or typhus fever, and Dr. Jackson took his temperature by placing the ordinary ship's thermometer in his axilla. My impression is, that Dr. Chadwick said this was the first attempt at taking body temperature. The making of small thermometers for clinical use, doubtless began as soon as the practice was established. I think I am correct in saying that the improvement of a self-registering index (mercury which stays up until it is forcibly shaken down), is recent—within the last twenty or twenty-five years.

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EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

DEAR EDITOR: I have been reading with interest the discussion on shortage of applicants to the training schools for nurses. I think that probably the hard, monotonous work with so little freedom (for the successful nurse is usually on a case) has something to do with the trouble. I find myself often very tired of it, and my cases are mostly of the best people and generally pleasant, but how I long sometimes to get away from